



Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod CA 35 Service Academy Nominations

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there an age maximum or minimum to attend a US Service Academy?

Each of the service academies sets an age minimum and maximum for eligible attendance. If you wish to attend the US Naval, Air Force, or Military academy, you must be at least 17 years of age, and you must not have had your 23rd birthday before July 1 of your year of entry. If you wish to attend the US Merchant Marine Academy, you must be at least 17 years of age, and must not have had your 25th birthday before July 1 of your year of entry.

If I am an international student who is currently studying here in California, will I be eligible for Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's nomination?

No. Congresswoman Negrete McLeod, as well as any other member of Congress, is only permitted to nominate individuals who are U.S. citizens. Each of the academies has procedures for accepting applicants from foreign countries. You should contact the academy directly to inquire further.

Will I be prohibited from attending a service academy if I have children or if I am married?

Yes. According to qualification guidelines at each academy, you must not be married, pregnant, or have any legal obligation to support children or other dependents.

When should I submit an application to receive Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's nomination?

Congresswoman Negrete McLeod begins accepting completed applications after May 15 of the year prior to entry. If you would like to begin at an academy for the 2015 entering class, for example, you may begin by submitting a completed application in May of 2014 . Keep in mind that you will not be able to submit applications beyond the deadline of November 1, which is Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's deadline for receipt of all completed application materials and standardized exam scores.

What if there are extenuating circumstances; can the November 1 deadline be extended?

Congresswoman Negrete McLeod and her staff take great strides to ensure that eligible students are given every opportunity possible. Various situations can, oftentimes limit one's ability to meet Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's deadline. It is highly recommended that you complete your application and submit it well in advance of the deadline, to avoid any complications. Should there arise an extenuating circumstance, such as a natural disaster, Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's staff will review the matter on a case by case basis.

What is the time line for application submission, nomination, and appointment?

Following the November 1 deadline for receipt of completed applications, Congresswoman Negrete McLeod’s staff begins processing application materials. This processing period is brought to culmination when, in mid-December, qualifying applicants are selected to move on to the next stage in the process. Applicants who advance to this stage are interviewed by a selection committee composed of individuals who are themselves academy graduates and either reservists, or retired military. This committee makes its recommendations to Congresswoman Negrete McLeod, who makes all final nominating decisions.

Should I only apply to Congresswoman Negrete McLeod, or should I apply to other nominating sources?

It is recommended that students apply broadly. You may receive a nomination from a number of different sources. California residents may apply for a nomination to both thru two California U.S. Senators, as well as Congresswoman Negrete McLeod of California 35th Congressional district. Students who do not know whom their representative is, may locate him or her by visiting www.house.gov. There are other non-congressional means by which an applicant may receive a nomination, such as the Vice-President or President of the United States, or the Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.). It is recommended that you contact the academy directly regarding these nomination sources.

Are there any medical factors that may disqualify me from receiving a nomination?

Congresswoman Negrete McLeod’s office does not evaluate applicants on the basis of their physical condition. However, every candidate, prior to receiving an appointment to any of the four academies, must be cleared physically by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (D.O.D.M.E.R.B.). It is recommended that you visit the academy’s website or contact them directly if you have any concerns regarding disqualifying medical conditions.

What type of coursework should I be taking while in High School to be competitive for an appointment?

It is recommended that you contact the academy directly regarding coursework and preparation. There are a number of different academic programs at each of the academies that might warrant an array of qualified preparation, therefore, it is best that you contact the academy directly regarding your planned coursework.

Am I required to take both the SAT and ACT exams?

Congresswoman Negrete McLeod will make evaluations based on either of these standardized exam scores.

Am I required to take the SAT II exam?

Congresswoman Negrete McLeod does not make evaluations based on the SAT II exam.

Since the application is due by November 1, when is the last SAT or ACT exam I may take?

It is completely up to the applicant when and how frequently he or she takes standardized exams. You should factor in scoring, processing, and delivery time for receipt of official scores from each of the testing services, being careful to ensure that all of your application materials are received prior to November 1. This means that students who take standardized exams in late October or November will not be able to submit a completed application by the deadline.

I am a California resident, but I am currently living abroad. Am I still eligible for Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's nomination?

Yes. Students who are currently studying or living abroad, or who are dependents of active-duty military personnel who have a home of record in 35th Congressional District, are fully eligible for Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's nomination. Congresswoman Negrete McLeod and her staff make every effort possible to assist applicants living abroad.

Can active-duty soldiers apply for Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's nomination?

Yes. Active-duty military who fully comply with their personnel directives regarding academy attendance are fully eligible for Congresswoman Negrete McLeod's nomination.

Should I open a pre-candidate file at the academy to which I am applying?

Yes. It is important that all applicants contact their respective academy of interest and open a pre-candidate file as early as possible. The academies generally recommend that students fill out these questionnaires during their junior year of high school.